

Serving on the Board of Directors of a Love INC Affiliate

Congratulations!

You have been selected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of your Love INC Affiliate. It is a great honor to be recognized by the Board as one worthy to be entrusted with the responsibility of building and directing the Love INC ministry of mobilizing churches to serve people in need and transform lives in the Name of Christ.

Scripture: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass. (1Thessalonians 5:23-24 NASB)

What Does the Board of Directors Do?

A Board of Directors of a Love INC Affiliate is a group of unpaid volunteers who does the work of leading and overseeing the Love INC activities, plans, staff, and ministry focus.

Board members serve for a set period of time (a term). During this time, they work to ensure that the Love INC Affiliate has needed resources and stays true to its mission.

Here are some major roles and responsibilities of the Board of Directors. Many of these responsibilities come under ethical and legal requirements.

The Board of Directors:

- Ensures that the Love INC Affiliate operates according to its **Mission and Core Values**.
 - Includes reference to Missional Integrity Key Indicators, assessments and evaluation
- Are caretakers of the Love INC **Relational Ministry Model and Vision**. The Board reviews strategy, plans and decisions to ensure that the organization strives for excellence in being Love INC.
 - Includes using Key Performance Indicators assessments and associated improvement
- Participates in and approves a **strategic, long-term plan** and/or annual plans, and follows through to act upon the plan and implement it.

- Ensures that the Love INC Affiliate is in **compliance with laws and regulations**, and adheres to its own bylaws.
- Ensures that the Love INC Affiliate is **financially solvent**, which requires board members to
 - assist in fundraising
 - personally contribute funds
 - manage assets
- Approve an **annual budget** and regularly review income and expense statements
- Sets **major operating policies** for the Love INC Affiliate, such as:
 - Personnel policies
 - Board attendance policy
 - Type of client needs to exclude from Love INC response
- **Markets and represents** the Love INC Affiliate to the larger public.
 - Partner churches
 - Non-partner churches
 - The community
 - Serves as the “eyes and ears” of Love INC in the community
- Exercises **oversight of the Executive Director**
 - Hires
 - Supports
 - Evaluates
 - Dismisses, if necessary
- **Manages the board** functions
 - Replenishes itself
 - Assesses its own performance through periodic evaluation (uses the KPI for Boards of Directors)
 - Creates, oversees and, if necessary, disbands committees of the board, as needed

Scripture: His lord said unto him, “Well done, good and faithful servant: you have been faithful over a few things, I will set you over many things; enter into the joy of your lord.” (cf. Matthew 25:21 ASV)

Being a Board Member: Commitment

A board member is **committed** to provide spiritual and professional leadership for Love INC ministry. We believe that to provide spiritual leadership, a board member makes and keeps a commitment in four areas:

- **A Commitment to Jesus Christ**

A board member of Love INC must be committed to follow Christ and to live a Christlike life. This commitment is evident through:

- Speech and Actions
- Church attendance and participation
- Ethical dealings in all of life, including any business enterprises
- Healthy relationships (family, friends, etc.)
- An active, daily prayer life, with Scripture reading/study
- A board member is involved in advancing God's Kingdom (the way of Christ) at all times

Scripture: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16 NASB)

- **A Commitment to Unity**

A board member is committed to helping the Christian churches in his/her Affiliate work together in a coordinated fashion to accomplish the Love INC Mission. Love INC is a ministry of all the Christian churches within the affiliate's service area that want to participate. Churches can do more together than any one church can do alone, plus it is God's will that we love one another (cf. John 17).

Unity means coordinated effort and respect for each other, while respecting each other's differences. Additionally, unity in Christ is a powerful witness transcending any earthly allegiance – as board members work together in unity, it sends a strong message and helps to transform a community.

Scripture: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another." (John 13:34)

- **A Commitment to the Others in the Love INC Affiliate**

Each board member is committed to all everyone else who is working together in the Love INC ministry – pastors, church staff, Love INC volunteers, Love INC staff, donors, business supporters, even clients.

Scripture: "The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.'" (Matthew 25:40)

- **A Commitment to Acquiring Wisdom**

A Love INC board member is committed to acquiring wisdom.

- The board member has the right attitude
 - Reverent
 - Humble
 - Teachable
 - Diligent
 - Upright
 - Respectful of others
 - Faithful and Prayerful
 - Obedient to God

- The board member takes the right approach
 - Asks God for wisdom
 - Seeks wisdom from Scripture
 - Seeks wisdom from wise counselors
 - Seeks wisdom from the lessons of life
 - Seeks wisdom from personal study
- The board member makes good decisions for the long-term well-being of the Love INC Affiliate

Scripture: Acquire wisdom; and with all your acquiring, get understanding. (Proverbs 4:7b NASB)

Being a Board Member: Cost

The major costs of being a Love INC board member are **time and energy**. Each board member must place attendance and participation at board meetings as a high priority. Only in the most unusual and critical instances would a board member miss a meeting, and only then with prior notice to the board chair. Put the meetings on your schedule and calendar, and plan your other activities around those board meetings.

In addition to board meetings, Love INC board members are active servants who work to build up the Love INC ministry in their area. Board members are active, with assigned tasks to complete, outside of the board meetings.

- Board members may be involved in a number of public relations events or church presentations.
- They can inspire people to donate to Love INC.
- They can make connections with businesses in the area which may help Love INC with in-kind donations or cash donations.
- They may be called upon to meet with church groups to give reports.
- Finally, board members may be called upon to serve on a board committee or task force that is engaged in project-specific or topic-specific activities.

Another type of cost is **having your ideas and values tested**. This is essential for the group to make good decisions.

- Personal ideas, community values and Love INC activities must be tested in the light of the Scriptures, prayer, and wise counsel – to determine the best course of action for your Love INC Affiliate.
- You must be willing to be open to build trusting relationships.
- Trusting relationships, built on mutual respect and Christlike love, are essential for the types of clear, honest and robust discussions that are needed for wise decision-making.

- A silent board member, like an uninvolved or absent board member, is not fulfilling his/her responsibility and calling as a servant of Christ on the Love INC board.
- A board member who will not listen to others' ideas is not demonstrating the respect needed for the board to flourish.
- When you fully participate in the board by being open, willing to listen, and honestly sharing your ideas and insights, you will grow as a Christian and relationships with grow deeper.

Scripture: Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. (Matthew 16:24 NASB)

Being a Board Member: Rewards

The rewards of being a Board member of Love INC are substantial. Each Board member receives a different blessing for his/her effort. The blessings come with the opportunity to be involved in Christian service. It is the Lord Jesus Christ whom the Board member serves!

While serving on the Board of Directors is an unpaid position (no financial remuneration), there are rewards involved:

- The joy of seeing people in need helped by the members of Christian churches in the Affiliate
- The joy of seeing Christians offer freely their time and talents to love and serve their neighbors in need
- The joy of knowing you are a part of transformation:
 - Of the lives of neighbors in need
 - Of the Christians who serve
 - Of the partner churches corporately
 - Of supporters and donors who now can use their resources to give to local Christian ministry
 - Of the community
- The joy of seeing people come to Christ and begin a relationship with Him
- The joy of working behind the scenes to make ministry possible
- The personal growth and joy of working alongside brothers and sisters in Christ who serve on the Board with you

- The blessing of lasting friendships in Christ – new friends from other churches
- The blessing of being able to put your faith, your skills, your expertise into action in God’s Kingdom
- Others: _____

Scripture: Your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. (Matthew 6:4b NASB)

Additional Board Considerations

- The Board of Directors leads, decides and governs.
- The Board is the policy-making body of the Love INC affiliate.
- The Board is *active*, which means that each board member works in various capacities as part of his/her board involvement. For example, each board member
 - Serves on a committee
 - Helps promote Love INC
 - Rallies involvement of his/her own church
 - Financially supports Love INC
 - Volunteers for speaking engagements, as needed
 - Procures needed resources
 - Is present at Love INC events
 - Executes jobs necessary to build the Love INC affiliate, as assigned
- The Board plans in conjunction with the Executive Director
 - Approves short-term objectives
 - Creates strategic plans and long-term goals
 - Sets the direction for the Love INC Affiliate
 - Monitors progress, reviews, adjusts plans
- The Board represents Love INC in the eyes of the community

- The Board supervises and encourages the Executive Director
- The Board establishes “boundaries” for the Love INC affiliate
- The Board reviews all activities in light of the Mission (and MIKIs, and AKPIs)
- The Board of Directors is *singular*; that is, the board’s authority comes only when it speaks as a single unit.
 - Individual board members do not make decisions for the Board
 - Individual board members do not have authority to contradict Board decisions
 - Individual board members do not speak for Love INC unless they are aligned with stated goals, decisions, policies and Love INC identity
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Scripture: "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you." (John 15:16 NASB)